

SPRINGFIELD - The construction of the new \$12.8 million Raymond A. Jordan senior center at Blunt Park is expected to result in the closure of four neighborhood senior centers in Springfield, city officials said Tuesday.

During a budget hearing at City Hall, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and Health and Human Services Commissioner Helen R. Caulton-Harris, said that a preliminary consolidation plan calls for the closure of the Pine Point Senior Center, the Mason Square Senior Center, the Forest Park Manor Center, and the Mayflower Senior Center.

Three neighborhood centers will remain open under the consolidation: the Riverview Center in the North End, the Clodo Concepcion (Greenleaf) Senior Center in Sixteen Acres, and the Hungry Hill Center in Liberty Heights, city officials said. The Fitness Center on Plainfield Street will also remain open.



Springfield Chief Administrative and Financial Officer Timothy J. Plante, left, and Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, seen from the back, meet with various department heads and officials to discuss the proposed fiscal 2018 city budget. *Peter Goonan / The Republican*

"We are very excited about a new, state-of-the-art senior center opening," Caulton-Harris said. "The senior citizens of the city of Springfield are extremely deserving and have waited a long time for this center."

The city began construction of the new, two-story, 25,000-square foot senior center at Blunt Park last September, and it is slated to open in September of 2017.